

Chino Valley Unified prepares for \$7.8 million in cuts

Canan Tasci, Staff Writer

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CHINO - Chino Valley Unified School District officials worry the state's financial crisis may soon change the district's current education system.

During a budget study session Thursday, a Chino Valley Unified official told school board members that the district will face up to \$7.8 million in cuts to its 2012-13 school year if the state doesn't meet its revenue projections.

"This is grim because it's not the first time we're experiencing cuts, this is cumulative over several years and its forced us to look into programmatic and personnel cuts," said Sandra Chen, district assistant superintendent of business services.

The San Bernardino County Office of Education has informed districts to prepare their budget for mid-year cuts and for the worst-case scenario.

If the state comes up short between \$2 billion and \$4 billion in revenue, K-12 districts must reduce their budget up to 4 percent and reduce their transportation budget by half.

Community colleges will be subjected to reductions as well. Reduction to transportation for the Chino Valley District would translate to \$390,093.

To assist in meeting their budget goals, K-12 districts can choose to reduce their school year by an additional seven days, or up to 168 days. Reduction of school year is contingent to bargaining with their unions.

More over, Chino Valley Unified has already reduced their school year by five days.

The K-12 system is safe only if

the state's revenue projection falls \$2 billion to \$1 billion short.

That said, there will be a reduction of \$23 million to child care services and a reduction to community colleges and the state's higher education systems.

"If the state is short in revenue, we'll get cut by 4 percent, which is our bread and butter," Chen said. "We're supposed to get \$5,200 per student and we'll be reduced by \$260 if the state doesn't meet its projections."

Unified districts' average daily attendance per student will be cut by \$260, while elementary districts will lose \$250 per kid. High school districts will be reduced by \$300 per student.

Things don't look optimistic, though.

So far, Chen said the state has missed their projection target by four months.

During the budget study session, Superintendent Wayne Joseph went over 33 budget reduction options with board members.

At this point, the options - which are for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years - are not the superintendent's recommendation.

In total, the choices add up to \$11.3 million for the next school year and \$12.2 million for the 2013 school year.

Some of reduction options for the next school year

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include \$50,000 allocated to the district's high school exit exam program, \$500,000 to the adult education, six full-time grounds workers, elimination of 15 school nurses, and reduce an assistant principal secretary at each high school.

Some reductions will need to be negotiated.

Find a list of the budget reductions at the district's website www.chino.k12.ca.us

At the district's next budget study session, on Nov. 10, the superintendent will recommend cuts from options presented to the board.

With the recent resignation of board of trustee member Brandon Blanchard - effective today - Joseph said if the board chose to hold a special election, the cost would be more than \$400,000.

The board will likely have an item on Thursday's agenda regarding the process that is available to fill the vacancy, officials said.

"Our hands are tied, and so our feet because of forces out of our control but there still should be hope," said James Na, board president.



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